The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF GREAT DRIFFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1914.

The number of births and deaths registered shows that there were 139 births and 114 deaths, compared with 126 births and 102 deaths for last year.

Of the births there were 77 males and 62 females. As one birth was transferable to an outside district the birth-rate was 24.3 per 1000, which is the highest rate for five years.

Last year it was 21.3 per 1000.

For England and Wales the birth-rate was 23.6.

Of the deaths there were 48 males and 66 females. As 13 deaths were transferable to outside districts, and 4 to this district the crude death-rate was 18.4 per 1000, and the corrected rate was 14.7. The high death-rate was due to the damp foggy weather at the end of the year causing Bronchitis and Broncho-Pneumonia. The number of deaths in September and December was very much above the average. For England and Wales the corrected death-rate was 13.6 per 1000.

The Infant Mortality under one year was 20 compared with 18 last year, and 6 for 1912.

The principal causes of death were Congenital Debility and Premature Birth, Bronchitis, Enteritis and Pneumonia.

The rate per 1000 Nett Births was 144.9.

For England and Wales it was 105.

The most fatal period of life was 65 years and upwards, the number being 36; there were 22 between 45 and 65, and 20 each between 25 and 45 and under one year.

The causes of death were:—Cancer 13 Cases, Bronchitis 10, Heart Disease 10, Tuberculosis 7, Nephritis 7, Premature Births and Congenital Debility 7, Pneumonia 4, Enteritis 3, Measles 2, Puerperal Fever 2, Diphtheria 1, Violent Deaths, 2, Meningitis 2, Other Defined Diseases 35.

There were 33 Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year compared with 16 last year and 80 for 1912:—Pulmonary Tuberculosis 11 Cases, other forms of Tuberculosis 3, Diphtheria 8, Erysipelas 5, Puerperal Fever 2, Scarlet Fever 2, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 2.

The death-rate from Tuberculosis and Congenital Debility and Premature Birth is high. Both Cases of Puerperal Fever were fatal; of 8 Cases of Diphtheria one was fatal.

The Public Water Supply from the Driffield Water Works is very good.

Other Private Supplies are obtained from Wells & Bore Wells.

Three Samples of Water of the latter were bacteriologically examined, and one was found to be contaminated, due to a defect in the pump which was remedied, and a second examination of a sample was reported to be pure.

HOUSING.—Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909—500 were inspected in 1912 and 303 in 1913.

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders—29.

Number of dwelling-houses which, after the making of Closing Orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation—2.

Number of dwelling-houses voluntarily demolished by Owners—2.

The drainage of the Urban District is very good, the sewage being filtered at the Filtration Area, and the effluent after treatment finally entering the Driffield Canal.

Public Scavengers remove refuse and nightsoil in covered carts to the Filtration Area, where after treatment it is sold for Agricultural purposes.

Tub Closets and Water Closets are in vogue, the Tub Closets and Ashbins are cleansed weekly, and Ashpits monthly.

There were 65 Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, including 29 Wearing Apparel Manufacturers, 28 Joiners, Blacksmiths, &c., and 8 Bakehouses, of which 14 Inspections were made and 4 written Notices sent.

The number of defects found were 4 and 3 remedied.

DETAILS OF SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE INSPECTOR.

Dwelling-houses inspected	85
,, notices served	105
New houses built	4
Have Building Bye-laws been adopted	Yes
Date of confirmation	Dec. 28th, 1874
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	16
,, disinfected after cases of Phthisis	4
Schools disinfected after ordinary infectious diseases ...	Nil
Dwelling-houses found over-crowded	Nil
Number of defective privies and ashpits inspected ...	65
Number remedied	63
Privies converted to w.c's	10
,, to pail closets	27
New ashpits made	Nil
Ashpits covered	4
New w.c's	6
Number of house drains inspected	12
Number remedied	11
Drains trapped or disconnected	Nil
Drains relaid	9
,, better ventilated	1
,, new laid	Nil
Cesspools inspected	Nil
Number of cesspools removed	Nil
,, do. made	Nil
Nuisances from animals found	1
,, abated	1
Offensive trades inspected	3
Number of Nuisances found	3
,, abated	3
Number of Notices served (Statutory)	19
,, (informal)	86
,, complied with	All
Number of Nuisances found	83
,, abated	83
Water supplies. Houses newly supplied with water mains ...	17
New wells made	Nil
New bore-wells made	Nil
Dairies and Cowsheds. Have regulations been made ...	Yes
Date of adoption ...	10th Feb. 1913
Number of Dairies and Cowsheds on Register	18
Number of Cows	119
Visits to Cowsheds } ,, Dairies }	168
Defects found	1
,, remedied	1
Slaughter-houses. Number on Register	10
Visits to	86
Number of defects found	Nil
,, remedied	Nil
Common Lodging-houses. Number on Register	2
Visits to	27
Number of defects found ...	Nil
Canal Boats inspected	38

GENERAL REMARKS.

Since the month of August considerable Military Forces, varying from 700 to 120, have been stationed in the Town, necessitating close supervision of the Sanitary arrangements by the Sanitary Department of the Council, and especially by the Inspector. Particular attention was paid to any suggestions or complaints by the Officers as to sanitation, and it is satisfactory to be able to report that no Infectious disease has been notified amongst the men, nor has the general health or condition of the Town been detrimentally affected.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. BURGESS.